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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 4–6 December 2018

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth meeting

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Introduction

1. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) was held from 4 to 6 December 2018 in Geneva. The decisions adopted at the meeting and other outcomes may be found in document ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1.

A. Attendance

2. The tenth meeting was attended by delegations from the following Parties: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. Delegations from the following ECE member States not Parties also attended: Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Observers from Brazil and Cameroon attended the Conference remotely.

4. Representatives of three United Nations organizations participated in the meeting: the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Environment / Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Unit. Representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), the Interstate Council on Industrial Safety of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety) and the Union for the Mediterranean, also attended. In addition, the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions and representatives of industry were represented: CENIT Hydrocarbon transport and logistics; Eco Peace NGO; the European Chemical Industry Council; the Institution of Chemical Engineers; the National Technical University "Dnipro Polytechnic"; and the Giurgiulesti International Free Port, Danube Logistics.

B. Organizational matters

5. The outgoing Chair of the Conference, Ms. Jasmina Karba (Slovenia), opened the meeting.

6. The Executive Secretary of ECE welcomed delegates and made opening remarks. She expressed her appreciation for the development of a long-term strategy until 2030, noting the increasing recognition of the Convention as a legal instrument for technological risk reduction under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework), further to its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 3, 6, 9, 11 and 12. She encouraged delegations to strengthen the Convention's visibility in this respect, and stressed the need for more sustainable and predictable financing to allow for the implementation of the strategy and the respective workplans.

7. The Conference adopted its agenda (ECE/CP.TEIA/36 and Corr.1).

8. It took note of the report on the status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of

Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/2 and Corr.1), including information on whether Parties had designated competent authorities and points of contact, as required under article 17 of the Convention. The number of Parties to the Convention remained unchanged (41), and there had been no change in the status of the Protocol (not in force). The Conference welcomed the increase in the nomination of competent authorities and points of contact and requested the secretariat to report on the ratification status in a similar manner at the next meeting.

9. An outgoing Vice-Chair, Mr. Pawel Dadasiewicz (Poland), reported on the credentials submitted by the representatives of the Parties. Albania, Hungary and Spain failed to provide credentials during the meeting.¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Luxembourg and Monaco — all Parties to the Convention — were not represented. The Conference accepted the report on credentials and noted that the number, which exceeded half of the total number of Parties, was sufficient to take decisions at the meeting.

I. Seminar on risk assessment methodologies

10. The seminar was organized to support the Parties and beneficiary countries of its Assistance Programme in their efforts to implement the Convention by providing an opportunity to exchange information and share experiences and practices on the use of effect and risk assessment methodologies. It was moderated by the outgoing Chair of the Conference.

11. The outgoing Chair recalled that the small group on risk assessment was formed with the purpose of organizing this seminar, and expressed gratitude to the group for its efforts. The Group was composed of members of the Bureau (Mr. Martin Merkofer (Switzerland), Mr. Michael Struckl (Austria) and the outgoing Chair, Ms. Karba (Slovenia), the Working Group on Implementation (Mr. Raphael Gonzalez (Switzerland), and the ECE secretariat.

12. The seminar comprised five sessions. Sessions I to IV entailed presentations by country representatives and organizations from the ECE region, which provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the role and different types of effect and risk assessment methodologies used by countries in the ECE region for industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response. These first four sessions were moderated by the outgoing Chair, Mr. Struckl (Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria and member of the Bureau), Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Federal Environmental Agency, Germany, Co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group) and member of the Bureau) and Mr. Dadasiewicz (Head of Division and representative of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Poland and Vice-Chair), respectively.

13. The final session V entailed a panel discussion on the needs and opportunities related to the implementation of effect and risk assessment methodologies, moderated by an expert from the Netherlands, Mr. Chris Dijkens, former Chair of the Conference. During the discussion, the panellists stated the different approaches, needs and opportunities for risk assessment methodologies for their countries and institutions. A discussion on transboundary cooperation highlighted the need and importance of understanding of methods that the neighbouring countries used in order to understand each other's decisions and learn from other countries' practices.

14. Mr. Struckl delivered a summary of each session, presented the conclusions from the seminar and potential follow-up activities. The Conference welcomed the holding of the

¹ Austria and Greece provided credentials after the report on credentials delivered by the Vice-Chair, while still during the Conference. Hungary provided its original credentials following the meeting.

seminar on risk assessment methodologies. It took note of its conclusions and asked that these be included in a separate, more detailed report.

15. The Conference mandated the Bureau, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation, to determine specific follow-up activities, based on the discussions held at the seminar, the detailed seminar report and the evaluation forms. It also mandated the Bureau to consider the outcomes of the seminar when reviewing the location criteria contained within the draft decision amending the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention.

II. Report of the Bureau on its activities since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

16. The outgoing Chair presented the report of the Bureau on its activities during the biennium 2017–2018 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/3) as mandated by the Conference at its ninth meeting (Ljubljana, 28–30 November 2016). She highlighted the Bureau's activities since the ninth meeting, including the outcomes of meetings held, the preparation of the draft revised long-term strategy until 2030 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/5) and the draft communication, outreach and engagement strategy (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/9). In regard to the implementation of the workplan for 2017–2018, the Chair highlighted the progress made and remaining challenges, including:

- (a) Maintaining the interest and involvement of all Parties and other stakeholders;
- (b) Tailoring activities to the needs and interests of Parties to enhance the exchange of information;
- (c) Maintaining the motivation of beneficiary countries of the Assistance Programme and improving the sustainability of results;
- (d) Creating synergies and enhancing the exchange of information on activities with strategic partners to improve the Convention's relevance; and
- (e) Ensuring sustainable and predictable financing by contributions from all Parties, as there was still reliance on a limited number of donors contributing financially and in-kind. She reminded the Conference that the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Convention and its workplan lied with the Parties.

17. On behalf of the Bureau, she welcomed the successful implementation of activities under all sections of the Convention's workplan and recognized the improved project management by the secretariat of the assistance activities carried out. She highlighted the major achievements made during the biennium, namely:

- (a) Renewed interest by Parties in the work under the Convention;
- (b) Initiation of activities in non-traditional areas;
- (c) Cooperation with a variety of stakeholders and partners;
- (d) Increased recognition of the Convention's linkages with the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Growing recognition of the Convention in the context of policy making and governance; and
- (f) Expanding cooperation between countries beyond the exchange of technical information.

18. The Conference took note of the report by the outgoing Chair on the activities of the Bureau since its ninth meeting. It requested the Bureau to prepare a similar report to present at its next meeting.

19. The outgoing Chair presented the draft decision amending the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention, prepared by the Bureau in cooperation with the Chair of the Working Group on Implementation and the co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group. The outgoing Chair recalled that at two subregional workshops on industrial accidents prevention held in 2017 inconsistencies between paragraph 5 (Location criteria) of the Guidelines and the amended text of annex I of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/30/Add.1, Decision 2014/2) were noted. The purpose of the draft decision was to align the wording of paragraph 5 of the Guidelines with annex I and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

20. The Conference adopted decision 2018/1 amending the Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the implementation of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/4), reiterating that the Bureau consider the outcomes of the seminar on risk assessment methodologies when reviewing the location criteria.

III. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

21. The outgoing Chair presented a list of the outgoing members of the Bureau, who had been elected or re-elected at the ninth meeting: Mr. Dadasiewicz (Poland) (Vice-Chair); Mr. Pavel Forint (Czechia); Ms. Karba (Slovenia) (Chair); Mr. Aléxandros Kiriazis (European Union); Mr. Merkofer (Switzerland); Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Mr. Struckl (Austria); Ms. Torill Tandberg (Norway); Ms. Wivi-Ann Wagello-Sjölund (Finland) (Vice-Chair); and Mr. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany). The Conference expressed its gratitude to the outgoing Bureau and Officers of the Convention, notably the outgoing Chair, highlighting her outstanding contributions, leadership, and vision which had benefited the Convention greatly during the past four years.

22. The Convention Secretary announced that the secretariat had received communications by ten Parties for election as members of the Bureau up to eight weeks ahead of the meeting, which had been communicated to the Parties six weeks before the meeting (CP.TEIA/2018/INF.2), in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedures, as amended by the Conference at its ninth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/37).² The following candidatures had been received: Mr. Evgenij Baranovskij (Belarus); Mr. Dadasiewicz (Poland); Mr. Forint (Czechia); Ms. Karba (Slovenia); Mr. Rolf-Jan Hoeve (European Union); Mr. Merkofer (Switzerland); Ms. Suzana Milutinovic (Serbia); Mr. Struckl (Austria); Ms. Tandberg (Norway); Ms. Wagello-Sjölund (Finland); and Mr. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany). The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection had nominated Ms. Tandberg as a candidate for election as Chair of the Conference. The outgoing Chair announced that in order to support a smooth and transparent election of Officers, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure, the outgoing Bureau proposed for election the following constellation: Ms. Tandberg (Chair); Ms. Karba (Vice-Chair); Mr. Struckl (Vice-Chair).

23. On the basis of the nominations received and the proposal by the outgoing Bureau, the Conference elected the members of the Bureau and Officers for the period 2019–2020, as proposed.

² The consolidated version of the rules of procedures (ECE/CP.TEIA/37) contains the amendments agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth (ECE/CP.TEIA/15, Part I, paras. 12–13) and ninth meetings (ECE/CP.TEIA/32/Add.1).

24. Ms. Tandberg, elected Chair, thanked the Conference for its trust and expressed her desire, together with the Vice-Chairs, to build on the achievements made, and lead the Convention wisely in the period ahead. Ms. Milutinovic stated that due to her election as a Bureau member, Serbia would replace her membership in the Working Group on Implementation with a new representative for the remaining term, namely Ms. Sanja Stamenkovic, Ministry of Environmental Protection.

IV. Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030

25. The Chair recalled that the Conference at its ninth meeting had requested the Bureau to elaborate a revised draft long-term strategy in order to align it with the relevant international developments, enrich it with new elements such as gender balance and link it with a strategy for the Convention's opening. The Bureau had then, in close cooperation with the secretariat, developed a draft strategy until 2030, aligned with the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, in a multi-step approach. The draft strategy had been sent to all focal points for comments, and the comments received³ had been incorporated into the pre-session document (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/5). An additional proposal for textual changes received by the European Union was circulated by the secretariat to all Parties in advance of the Conference.

26. The former Chair presented the draft revised long-term strategy, which she described as ambitious, but realistic, building on past achievements, taking into account recent developments and being suitable for all ECE sub-regions.

27. The Conference reviewed and adopted the long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030, taking account of the comments received from the Russian Federation, which had been incorporated in the draft prior to its circulation, the changes proposed by the European Union and additional changes made in session, as proposed by the Russian Federation. The text in square brackets was removed, following the discussion on the development of the Convention. The Conference welcomed the development of a revised long-term strategy and called upon Parties and other countries to actively foster its implementation.

V. Development of the Convention

A. Action by the Bureau

28. The former Chair, on behalf of the former Bureau, reported on the actions by the Bureau during the last biennium in relation to the draft amendment to the Convention that was considered at the last meeting. She noted that the Bureau, being responsible for preparing the meetings of the Conference of the Parties in a transparent and effective manner, had decided to reach out to and make informal enquiries with the concerned Parties. Based on the informal inquiries made, it decided that further action was needed, and requested the secretariat to send high-level letters to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and to the European Union and its member States which were Parties to the Convention, requesting them to state their positions on the matter. The European Union had replied that it needed more time to consider the matter, while the Russian Federation had indicated its willingness to provide further information.

29. Based on the above replies, the former Chair sent follow-up letters to the Russian Federation, with an invitation to further engage and exchange views and comments on the

³ Only the Russian Federation had provided comments by the deadline.

matter. The former Chair informed the Conference that, following the decision by the Bureau at its thirty-eighth meeting (Bern, 26–27 June 2018), an informal consultation meeting was held in advance of the Conference, on 3 December 2018, involving the Russian Federation, the European Union — which had proposed the amendment — and those Parties which had supported it, namely Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Switzerland.⁴ During the meeting, convened by the former Chair, Parties had informally discussed their positions and the way forward.

B. Draft amendment to the Convention

30. The Conference of the Parties resumed consideration of the draft amendment to the Convention and the accompanying draft decision (ECE/CP.TEIA/2016/7), developed and agreed by the Convention's Working Group on Development in the biennium 2015–2016 and considered at the ninth meeting of the Conference. The Chair recalled that at the ninth meeting, the Conference approved the proposed changes to articles 1, 4, 18, 26 and to annex VIII and agreed on the proposed changes to article 29. The Conference was, however, not able to reach consensus on the proposed changes to article 9 on information to the public, public consultation and participation in decision-making and access to justice.

31. The Conference was thus invited by the Chair to particularly consider the proposed changes to article 9.

32. A representative of Switzerland expressed the country's support for the changes proposed to all the articles of the draft amendment, recalling the many years of work on the proposal, and emphasizing the importance of opening the Convention for outreach in line with the Convention's long-term strategy. She stated the preference by Switzerland for the draft amendment to be adopted as a package, as soon as feasible.

33. A representative of the Russian Federation confirmed that the Russian position on the draft amendment had not changed since the previous meeting, which was in support of the changes to articles 1, 4, 18, 26, 29 and to annex VIII, but not to article 9. He reminded the Conference that the Russian Federation was not yet a Party to the ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and stated that the proposed changes to article 9 were not in line with the Russian Federation's current national legislation. He further stated that the Russian Federation would only be ready to amend the provisions relating to article 9 once a decision on the ratification of the Aarhus Convention was taken and that, until then, it could not support the common usage of Aarhus principles in other international treaties.

34. A representative of the European Union confirmed the European Union's support for the adoption of the amendment as a package, including all proposed changes. He highlighted that the improvements to article 9 were an essential component of the amendment package and that the European Union did not support the adoption of elements of the draft amendment separately. In light of the Russian Federation's position not to adopt article 9, he proposed that the draft amendment to the Convention only be reconsidered by the Conference once there were new developments and significant progress towards reaching consensus on amending the Convention, in order to allow Parties to focus their energies on implementation of the long-term strategy. He suggested that informal consultation meetings during the intersessional period may help to better understand the positions of the concerned Parties on the draft amendment.

⁴ Serbia, as a Party supporting the amendment, was also invited to this meeting, but could not attend.

35. A representative of the Republic of Moldova expressed support of the draft decision amending the Convention to the effect that the amendment be adopted as a whole.

36. The representative of Switzerland supported the European Union's proposal for Parties to engage in informal intersessional consultations on the draft amendment, adding that the Conference should be informed by the Bureau about the outcomes of such consultations.

37. Consequently, the Conference did not reach consensus on the draft decision on amending the Convention as Parties did not agree on the proposed amendments to article 9 on information to, and participation of the public. The Conference encouraged the concerned Parties to continue informal consultations, in particular on the proposed amendments regarding public information, participation in decision-making as well as access to justice, and invited the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Bureau to facilitate these consultations with a view to respective positions possibly becoming closer, and to report back on the outcome of those consultations to the next meeting of the Conference. The Conference agreed that, should those consultations result in substantial progress towards consensus, the Bureau may propose addressing the issue of the amendments to the Convention at a later meeting of the Conference.

VI. Financing

38. The Secretary provided an overview of how activities implemented under the Convention's workplans were financed, highlighting that further to the regular budget, extra budgetary contributions were of crucial importance to ensure the implementation of core and non-core activities. She reported on the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism adopted by the Conference at its seventh meeting (Stockholm, 14–16 November 2012) and on the financing of the Convention's workplans in the previous three bienniums, drawing attention to those Parties having provided financial and in-kind contributions, and highlighting good practices. She stressed that only about half of the Parties had provided such contributions. While the number of contributing Parties increased, significant challenges remained, including:

(a) Contributions at significantly lower levels than the workplan budgets adopted by the respective Conferences of the Parties;

(b) A minor share of contributions pledged at the Conferences for the implementation of the respective workplans (less than 20 per cent of the overall workplan budgets), which impairs the predictability of financing;

(c) Additional incoming contributions late in the bienniums, while any additional contributions are welcome and appreciated;

(d) Reliability on several major regular donors, and time-limited project-related contributions, which impairs the sustainability of financing for a longer-term outlook.

39. While the overall amount of the contributions received had increased, this has mainly been due to additional larger project-related contributions, namely from Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, received in response to project development and fundraising efforts by the secretariat.

40. The former Chair reported on the activities of the Bureau's small group on financing, which had been re-established in January 2018, to actively encourage Parties to engage and support implementation of the workplan. The Group sought to maintain contact with Parties, to understand the reasons behind the level of their support and focus of their areas of interest.

41. The Conference took note of the information provided by the secretariat and the former Chair of the Convention. It thanked the secretariat for its report on the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism in the last three bienniums and its efforts to encourage additional funding, noting that the responsibility for securing financial resources rested with the Parties. It also thanked the Bureau's small group on financing for its efforts, particularly to reach out to Parties to encourage the provision of additional funds.

42. The Conference then held a roundtable discussion on financing to support the Convention's activities and the realization of the Convention's vision until 2030. In response to an invitation by the Chair, with reference to two questions included in the provisional agenda,⁵ delegations provided information on Parties' past and future envisaged contributions and concrete pledges for the period 2019–2020, sharing their views and experiences under the following six categories:⁶

A. Regular financial donors

(a) Albania desired to continue providing regular financial contributions reflecting economic strength, highlighting the importance of contributions by all Parties to inspire progress;

(b) Austria planned the continuation of previous levels of support (€6,000 annually), considering the possibility for increases and additional in-kind contributions, such as hosting of meetings;

(c) Croatia pledged the continuation of support at previous levels (\$3,000 annually) and indicated the possibility of future increases, depending on economic development;

(d) Czechia pledged an increased annual contribution of \$13,000 for the biennium 2019–2020, further to envisaging in-kind contributions to support experts participating in the Joint Expert Group and various projects;

(e) The European Union pledged the continuation of its generous support at previous levels (€35,000 annually), stating that budgetary decisions were confirmed annually. The representative of the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Union indicated the Directorate's readiness to support project building to access funding available in other Directorate-Generals, especially in relation to the implementation of the long-term strategy;

(f) France envisaged the continuation of its previous contributions (€40,000 annually), while budgetary decisions were taken on an annual basis. France provided an exceptional additional contribution of €200,000 for the biennium 2019–2020, aspiring to give an impetus to the implementation of the long-term strategy;

(g) Italy, a previous regular donor until 2014, re-joined the group of regular donor countries again as of 2018, with a contribution of €50,000 for that year and pledging the same level of €50,000 annually for the biennium 2019–2020, to support the predictably and sustainable implementation of the long-term strategy. Furthermore, Italy would explore possible ways to provide in-kind technical expertise.

⁵ The two questions (see ECE/CP.TEIA/36, item 8) focused on the envisaged provision of financial and/or in-kind contributions in support of the implementation of the long-term strategy.

⁶ The six categories were established on the basis of a review of the contributions provided in the previous three bienniums, listed in the secretariat presentation and the reports on the use of financial and in-kind resources in 2013–2014, 2015–2016 and 2017–2018.

(h) The Netherlands envisaged the continuation of its regular contributions of €30,000 each year, while budgetary decisions were taken annually;

(i) Norway, having provided regular predictable funding for the Assistance Programme since its inception, pledged the same level of annual contributions of \$40,000, to support the implementation of the entire workplan, not earmarked anymore as of 2019. In addition, Norway, with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has and continues to provide project-related contributions under a separate three-year agreement for the ECE multilateral environmental agreements.⁷ Furthermore, Norway has been providing in-kind support to activities under the Assistance Programme;

(j) Poland envisaged the continuation of its regular contributions at previous levels of \$10,000 each year. As budgetary decisions were taken annually, Poland pledged \$10,000 for the implementation of the workplan in 2019 at this stage, while making efforts to secure a similar amount for 2020. Poland was ready to explore the provision of in-kind contributions;

(k) Serbia pledged the continuation of regular financial contributions, in line with economic strength, and was exploring the possibility to increase this contribution in the future, in accordance with available funds.⁸ Moreover, Serbia would continue to support the implementation of the Convention and explore the provision of further in-kind contributions;

(l) Slovenia envisaged maintaining the same level of previous contributions from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning,⁹ clarifying that a formal letter, sent in accordance with the sustainable financial mechanism, was required to initiate the process. Slovenia was also ready to continue the provision of in-kind contributions, e.g. in relation to firewater retention. The representative of Slovenia, based on her own experience, encouraged other Parties to make use of development cooperation funding for assistance activities, which appeared to be easily accessible, particularly when demonstrating the linkages with the Sendai Framework;

(m) Switzerland encouraged other Parties to provide their share for the financing required for the implementation of the long-term strategy until 2030 and the respective workplans, which it considered to be a matter of solidarity and proportional and equitable burden-sharing. It suggested that the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted to the Convention's regional scale, be used as an indication. Switzerland has been providing regular, predictable contributions to support the implementation of the workplans, with SwF 70,000 annually. In addition, Switzerland has been funding assistance projects under the Convention, to support the implementation of recommendations contained in the ECE Environmental Performance Reviews in the area of mining operations and tailings safety in Central Asia.

B. Project funding donors

(a) Germany intended to maintain its level of previous contributions to support implementation of the Convention's workplans. Germany re-iterated its desire to contribute to funding the secretariat's activities — for which it expressed its appreciation — to support assistance activities financed by Germany in-kind under the Convention's workplans, following its recognition at the previous meeting of the Conference that when financing

⁷ Agreement on promoting and cooperation in the ECE region for 2018–2020.

⁸ Following the Conference of the Parties, Serbia pledged the provision of a financial contribution of \$2,000 for 2019.

⁹ Apart from the exceptional contribution in 2016 when Slovenia was hosting the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

projects, a proportion of the funds should be assigned to the ECE secretariat (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 91). With respect to the implementation of assistance projects, Germany stressed the importance of the commitment of beneficiary countries to implement their results and ensure their sustainability. Furthermore, Germany announced, on behalf of the Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the hosting of the eleventh meeting of the Conference;

(b) The Russian Federation has gladly provided financial support for the implementation of targeted assistance activities under the Convention, namely the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, which was regarded as effective, useful and of high impact. The respective State procedures were still ongoing to review the provision of continued support to follow-up on the achievements made in the framework of the above-mentioned project, through a follow-up project on national policy dialogues for industrial safety in Central Asia.

C. Recent or occasional financial donors

(a) Azerbaijan would strive to provide contributions in the future, looking at in-kind contributions for the next biennium;

(b) Belgium, namely the government of Flanders, would contribute in-kind to the workplan 2019–2020 in the form of expert assistance to subregional seminars on land-use planning and industrial safety, including the organization of a role play;

(c) Bulgaria pledged the continuation of support to the Convention's activities with regular financial contributions of \$2,100 annually for the biennium 2019–2020;

(d) Finland continued to consider the provision of funding, in particular financial project-related contributions, further to in-kind contributions in the form of expertise;

(e) Lithuania stated that, following organizational and management changes, the Fire and Rescue Department was ready to consider the provision of financial and in-kind contributions, the latter in particular for the period 2019–2020;

(f) Romania would continue contributing to the trust fund in 2019–2020, pledging €10,000, provided by the Ministry of Environment. Furthermore, Romania would explore how it could increase its in-kind contributions in the future.

D. Regular in-kind donors

(a) Hungary was planning to continue its regular in-kind contributions, in particular for the Joint Expert Group. Furthermore, Hungary announced taking over the chairmanship of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in 2019 and its aspiration to enhance cooperation with the Convention in this respect;

(b) Sweden envisaged the continuation of in-kind contributions, e.g. through its participation in Working Groups, the organization of meetings and the printing of publications. For use in the next biennium, Sweden was in the process of printing the Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention and the Cartoons, both of which had been previously only available online;

(c) The United Kingdom would continue to explore the possibility of financial contributions, while funding decisions were taken outside of the Health and Safety Executive. Furthermore, it was planning to continue providing in-kind contributions.

E. Recent or occasional in-kind donors

(a) Belarus envisaged the continued provision of expert assistance and was ready to explore the organization of meetings on its territory;

(b) The Republic of Moldova envisaged to continue providing in-kind contributions. Its national ecological fund would consider a possible financial contribution to the Convention in 2019. In cooperation with Romania and Ukraine, with the support of the secretariat, the Republic of Moldova would continue raising awareness of the Danube Delta-II project proposal and its search for financing. As a beneficiary of the Assistance Programme, the Republic of Moldova expressed its gratitude to the donor countries for their support;

(c) Tajikistan was ready to host activities on its territory and make expertise available;

(d) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was ready to provide in-kind contributions and planned to make efforts to be in the first group of donors providing direct financial contributions.

F. Parties that have not yet had the opportunity to contribute financially or in-kind

43. Kazakhstan was in the process of considering possible financial contributions to the Convention. Furthermore, Kazakhstan was ready to provide assistance, organize meetings on its territory and make experts available. The representative of Kazakhstan thanked the Russian Federation and Switzerland for their support to project activities to support the Convention's implementation by Kazakhstan.¹⁰

44. The Chair expressed her hope that the roundtable discussion inspired other Parties to provide or enhance the provision of financial or in-kind contributions. She stressed the importance of linking the activities under the Convention, in view of the long-term strategy, with the Sendai Framework and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, which might help reach out beyond the competent authorities for additional donations to the Convention.

45. The Conference welcomed the envisaged contributions, commitments and considerations by Parties to contribute to the implementation of the long-term strategy. Noting the challenges in the implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism, it encouraged Parties to provide sustainable and predictable funding for the implementation of the biennial workplans.

46. The Chair presented the draft decision fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/6), proposed by the Bureau following its review of the mechanism's implementation, in response to the request by the Conference at its last meeting. The Conference reviewed and adopted decision 2018/2 fostering implementation of the sustainable financial mechanism with the changes proposed by the European Union (circulated in advance of the meeting) and those made in session.

¹⁰ Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, funded by the Russian Federation and project on strengthening the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities, in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia, funded by Switzerland.

VII. Plan of action for the Convention for the biennium 2019–2020

47. The Secretary presented the document setting out the priorities, workplan and resources for 2019–2020 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/7). There were numerous gaps in the workplan in terms of lead countries and organizations for activities and the availability of funds. Where no lead country or organization were indicated for a workplan activity, countries were invited to approach the secretariat.

48. Further to the roundtable discussion on financing (see section VI), the following pledges were made:

(a) The European Union/European Investment Bank announced the continuation of its support to the area of land-use planning and industrial safety, pledging €35,000 in-kind, such as for the development of a repository of good practices on land-use planning and public information and participation;

(b) Switzerland pledged the continuation of the provision of SwF 70,000 annually for the workplan 2019–2020. Of this contribution, it wished to earmark SwF 50,000 for further follow-up to the seminar on risk assessment methodologies. Switzerland would also like to continue its role in a small steering group to guide this work. Furthermore, Switzerland pledged the provision of SwF 100,000 to continue its project-related support to strengthening the safety of tailings management facilities, with a focus on Tajikistan in particular, in response to the needs voiced by the country, and beyond in Central Asia;

(c) Hungary was planning to organize a seminar to support implementation of the guidance on transboundary contingency planning;

(d) Germany, further to its financing of two in-kind assistance activities on tailings management facilities — in Armenia and Georgia in the Caucasus (ongoing, implemented through Eco Peace NGO) and in the Danube river catchment (envisaged to be implemented through ICPDR), envisaged to support Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan through an additional project-related contribution (in-kind), to support the application of the checklist methodology and strengthen tailings safety through a joint training, subject to the expression of interest by these countries.

49. The Co-Chairs of the Joint Expert Group stated that the lead countries Germany and Hungary did not envisage the organization of transboundary exercises in the coming biennium, as such had been organized in this biennium. They encouraged other ECE member States with an interest in organizing such exercises in international river catchments to step forward.

50. The Conference adopted the workplan for 2019–2020 and its corresponding budget, on the basis of the Bureau's proposal and with changes made in-session. It entrusted the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, to finalize the workplan, on the basis of the pledges made and to be confirmed.

51. The Conference also:

(a) Requested Parties and invited other ECE member States to participate actively in the implementation of the workplan for 2019–2020, including through taking the lead in specific projects and activities;

(b) Requested lead Parties, in cooperation with the secretariat, to coordinate their efforts on improving tailings safety in Central Asia, in order to make use of synergies;

(c) Welcomed the contributions to the budget pledged by Parties, and at the same time urged other Parties and ECE member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind

contributions to the budget of the Convention, including for ensuring adequate human resources in the secretariat;

(d) Mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to monitor the implementation of the workplan for 2019–2020, including raising the remaining funds necessary for its full implementation;

(e) Further mandated the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to raise additional funds;

(f) Requested the secretariat to manage voluntary financial contributions and, at the next meeting, to report on the use of financial and in-kind resources;

(g) Requested the Bureau to draw up, with the support of the secretariat, a workplan and budget for 2021–2022 for adoption at the next meeting;

(h) Requested the secretariat to service and to provide the necessary meeting rooms, equipment, interpretation in the three official languages of ECE, official documents and other resources for the holding of meetings and other events as listed in the adopted workplan;

(i) Decided on the guiding principles for financial assistance to support the participation of, in particular, representatives from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and, as resources allow, other developing and least developed countries, by reviewing the draft decision (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/8) and adopting decision 2018/3.

VIII. Communication, outreach, and engagement strategy

52. The Conference at its ninth meeting had requested the Bureau to prepare a targeted communication strategy to facilitate ensuring robust and sustainable financing for the Convention's activities (ECE/CP.TEIA/32, para. 92). The Chair recalled that a small group on communications was established, constituting members of the Bureau from Austria, Norway and Slovenia, to develop the strategy, in close cooperation with the secretariat.

53. The Vice-Chair from Austria presented the draft communication, outreach and engagement strategy (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/9). He highlighted that it sought to support implementation of the long-term strategy until 2030 by providing guidance and a set of options which government representatives, focal points and other stakeholders could use as a 'toolbox' for future communication, outreach and engagement in relation to the Convention.

54. The Conference adopted the communication, outreach and engagement strategy, with the changes agreed in session. It welcomed the preparation of the strategy and called upon Parties and other countries to make use of it to promote communication and outreach actions, and foster the engagement of Parties, non-Parties, partner organizations and stakeholders, and thus support the implementation of the long-term strategy.

IX. Provision of assistance to countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

A. Progress report on activities under the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities carried out in 2017–2018

55. The secretariat highlighted key outcomes of activities organized within the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities since the ninth meeting of the Conference, based on the progress report on the implementation of assistance activities (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/10), stressing that activities at the national and/or subregional levels had taken place in all ECE subregions. A representative of Eco Peace NGO leading the implementation of the project “Improving the Safety of Tailings Management Facilities in the Caucasian Region — Trainings and legislative options”, funded by Germany and implemented under the Convention’s workplan, highlighted the project’s approach and achievements. A representative of the National Technical University “Dnipro Polytechnic” reported on the final workshop of the project on raising knowledge among students and teachers on tailings safety and its legislative review in Ukraine (Dnipro, Ukraine, 16–17 May 2017), also financed by Germany and implemented in-kind under the Convention’s workplan.

56. The Conference took note of and endorsed the progress report on assistance activities in 2017–2018. It welcomed particularly the completion of the activities under the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, and its results achieved, including the submission of self-assessments and action plans by all countries in that subregion, and the development of an implementation guide for Central Asia.

B. Panel discussion involving donor and beneficiary countries

57. The panel discussion provided an opportunity for representatives of beneficiary and donor countries and partner organizations to reflect on the achievements and impacts of the activities carried out in 2017–2018 and the lessons learned. Representatives of Belarus, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the CESDRR in Almaty and the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety were the panellists of this discussion, moderated by the Deputy Director of the ECE Environment Division.

58. In response to the request to reflect on the key achievements and progress made as a result of the implementation of assistance activities, representatives of beneficiary countries stated the following:

(a) The Vice-Minister for Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan stressed that the activities from which Uzbekistan benefited in the current biennium helped the country enhance its transboundary cooperation with neighbouring countries and emphasized the need for exchange of notifications and future joint training and learning activities;

(b) The Deputy Head of the Service of the State Supervision over the Safe Conduct of Works in Industry and Mining of Tajikistan stressed that inter-agency coordination in the country on matters related to industrial safety had been enhanced, following the implementation of national activities under the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia, while more remained to be done in this respect. Tajikistan had voiced a need for targeted assistance to improve the safety of its tailings management facilities at the subregional workshop within the above project. The Tajik panellist thanked Switzerland which had expressed its readiness to financially support the implementation of such a project;

(c) Both Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reported that the work on the implementation of the main requirements of the Convention was being actively pursued and that their respective countries were moving towards accession, which should follow as soon as the national legislation was fully aligned with the requirements of the Convention;

(d) The Deputy Head of the Department for Supervision of Industrial Safety of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Belarus showcased the transformation of Belarus from a recipient country of assistance activities into a country that also provides assistance. He stressed the interlinkages between the implementation of the Convention and the Sendai priorities for action mentioning that in his country the same authority was responsible for both.

59. Representatives of several delegations, speaking from the floor, notably Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, shared their progress on the Convention's implementation and thanked the donor countries and the secretariat for their support. The representative of the European Union congratulated beneficiary countries on their achievements and thanked the secretariat for the successfully implemented activities.

60. Representatives of several donor countries explained why it was important for them to support countries in transition in strengthening industrial safety:

(a) The Deputy Head of International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment emphasized the unique nature of the Convention's Assistance Programme and its importance not only for the beneficiary countries, but also for the donor countries and thanked the Convention's secretariat for its sustainable step-by-step approach in implementing the Programme. She stressed the importance of international cooperation for addressing global issues, stating that only through the exchange of experience and by learning from each other, individual countries achieve significant progress in enhancing their levels of industrial safety; Switzerland was hence a strong supporter and advocate of the Assistance Programme. The panellist recalled the 1986 accident in Schweizerhalle, Switzerland and its devastating impact on the Rhine river. She highlighted that it had been thanks to international cooperation and the dialogue with neighbouring countries that the ecological state of the river had since then significantly improved;

(b) The international expert nominated by the Russian Federal Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service for the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia underlined that the Russian Federation was connected historically and economically with countries of Central Asia and shared a large border with Kazakhstan. Thus, the prevention of possible accidents and the mitigation of transboundary effects through the provision of assistance were extremely important for the Russian Federation and its neighbours. Similar legislative approaches of Central Asia countries, based on the legislation of the Russian Federation, facilitated transboundary cooperation.

61. Following this exchange among beneficiary and donor countries, representatives of partner organizations reflected on how they could — by uniting their efforts with ECE — support the countries with economies in transition from respective subregions in sustaining the achieved results:

(a) The Secretary of the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety mentioned that Armenia as the current Chair of the Council would encourage accession by non-Parties to the Convention which were members of the Council and that close cooperation with ECE in this regard was crucial;

(b) The Director of the CESDRR stressed the Center's willingness to continue the work on the promotion of the benefits of the Convention as a tool for reducing technological disaster risks and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

62. The moderator concluded that it was crucial to sustain the achieved results and expressed his hope that the countries would keep supporting each other in raising industrial safety levels across ECE region within the framework of the re-branded Assistance and Cooperation Programme. He encouraged the beneficiary countries to proceed with the implementation and ratification of the Convention and report on their progress at the next meeting of the Conference.

63. The Conference welcomed the cooperation between experts from countries with economies in transition as part of the ongoing assistance activities, which it recommended as good practice, in view of the rebranding of the “Assistance Programme” into “Assistance and Cooperation Programme.” It took note of progress made in implementing the Convention by the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, supported by assistance activities while noting that there were significant remaining assistance needs, which require to be addressed, in particular in the areas of inter-institutional coordination, tailings safety, alignment of legislation and strengthening transboundary cooperation.

X. Implementation of the Convention

Activities of the Working Group on Implementation

64. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation, Mr. Leo Iberl (Germany), supported by the secretariat, reported on the Working Group’s activities in the period since the ninth meeting of the Conference. The Conference took note of the information provided in the report on the activities of the Working Group on Implementation in 2017–2018 (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/11). It requested the Working Group to prepare a similar report on its activities every four years, at those meetings of the Conferences, when no report on the implementation of the Convention will be presented.

65. The secretariat presented a template for the notification of hazardous activities, developed jointly by the Working Group, experts preparing an implementation guide under the project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia and the secretariat, in response to the needs expressed by beneficiary countries. The Conference took note of the template, with an editorial change made in-session, and agreed to recommend the updated template (ECE/CP.TEIA/38/Add.1) for use by Parties and other countries when notifying potentially affected Parties of hazardous activities.

XI. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Industrial Accident Notification System

66. The secretariat presented an informal report on a connectivity test of the ECE Industrial Accident Notification System (14 November 2018) and an online consultation of the points of contact (22 November 2018) (CP.TEIA/2018/INF.3). The activities had demonstrated that there was a need for training on the System for points of contact and continuous exercises on the bilateral and multilateral levels to increase the level of preparedness and response to industrial accidents with possible transboundary effects.

67. The Conference of the Parties took note of the outcome of the test and of the results of the online consultation. It encouraged the organization of future connectivity tests at the subregional level by Parties and beneficiary countries under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, information on which could be shared during the next online consultation.

XII. Prevention of accidental water pollution

68. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei (Germany), Co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group from the Industrial Accidents Convention reported on the meetings and other activities carried out since the ninth meeting of the Conference. He highlighted the development of safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water and the conduct of transboundary response exercises on the Oder and Danube Rivers.

69. He presented the Group's workplan for the next two years, approved by the Bureaux of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions¹¹ at their thirty-seventh and twenty-seventh meetings, respectively; endorsed by the Second Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 28–30 May 2018), and included in the programme of work for the Water Convention for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3).

70. The Conference took note of the activities of the Joint Expert Group in 2017–2018 and its workplan for 2019–2020. It agreed to include the activities of the Joint Expert Group in the 2019–2020 workplan of the Industrial Accidents Convention.

71. The Conference took note of the safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water — both the general recommendations (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/12-ECE/MP.WAT/2018/9) with the amendments proposed by the Russian Federation¹² and the technical and organizational recommendations (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/13-ECE/MP.WAT/2018/10). It agreed to recommend their use and implementation by countries in order to prevent accidental pollution of soil and water, including pollution causing transboundary effects. The Conference expressed its appreciation to the lead Parties and the Joint Expert Group for having prepared the safety guidelines and good practices. It requested the secretariat to publish the safety guidelines and good practices (both the general and the technical and organizational recommendations) in the next biennium in print and electronic form in English, French and Russian.

72. In view of the twentieth anniversary of the Joint Expert Group, Mr. Peter Kovacs (Hungary), Co-Chair of the Joint Expert Group from the Water Convention, highlighted the Group's key activities and achievements since its establishment in 1998. The Conference took stock of the Joint Expert Group's achievements over the past 20 years and encouraged the Joint Expert Group to continue its work on preventing accidental water pollution and reducing water-related risks from industrial activities to contribute to the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention.

XIII. Use of financial and in-kind resources in 2017–2018

73. The Secretary presented the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources under the Convention in 2017–2018. She listed the contributions received, providing updates as

¹¹ Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

¹² Amendment proposed at and agreed by the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Astana, 10–12 October 2018), to add the following para. to the general recommendations, between paras. 52 and 53: “*Enhance international cooperation on mutual assistance, research and development, exchange of information and technology in the field of industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response.*” Amendment proposed at and agreed by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention (Geneva, 4–6 December 2018), to delete the reference to foams from the definition of firefighting water in paras. 15 (c) and 19 of the general recommendations.

necessary to the information contained in the pre-session document (ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/14).

74. The Executive Officer provided information on the UMOJA administrative system introduced in the United Nations in October 2015, and the standard financial reporting since its introduction across defined categories of expenditures.

75. The Conference endorsed the report on the use of financial and in-kind resources to implement the workplan in 2017–2018. It requested the secretariat to report on the use of financial resources as of the next meeting in a more aggregated, standard manner — based on the information attainable from the United Nation’s administrative system UMOJA, and to report on the use of in-kind resources.

XIV. Land-use planning and natural-hazard-triggered technological accidents (Natech) risk management

76. A consultant to the secretariat and previously to the European Union/European Investment Bank reported on the ECE seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety (Mechelen, Belgium, 16–17 May 2018), organized in close cooperation with the government of Flanders (Belgium), the European Union/European Investment Bank as lead organizers and the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management. The seminar was attended by representatives from 35 countries and, among others, members of the Bureau of the ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Participants discussed challenges and good practices in coordinating land-use planning and industrial safety procedures and cooperation, including in a transboundary context.

77. The consultant presented the Co-Chairs’ conclusions of the seminar (CP.TEIA/2018/INF.5), highlighting that land-use planning and industrial safety procedures needed to be formally integrated, early in the process, for more effective industrial accident prevention.

78. The ECE video on “The benefits of enhanced cooperation between land-use planning and industrial safety”, launched at the seminar, was shown to the Conference of the Parties. The video was funded by the European Union/European Investment Bank and produced by Zoi Environment Network. In addition, the Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects had been finalized and issued in the three ECE official languages.

79. A representative of the European Union/European Investment Bank commended the collaboration between the co-organizers of the seminar and the cooperation between the land-use planning and industrial safety communities during the event. He stated the Bank’s interest in supporting follow-up activities in the future. A representative of Belgium, the government of Flanders, reiterated the positive remarks made and highlighted that the seminar had provided an opportunity to enhance the multi-disciplinary approach between planners, safety experts and other relevant stakeholders.

80. The Conference took note of the Co-Chairs’ conclusions of the seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety, and it recommended their implementation by countries in order to improve coordination and cooperation between land-use planning and industrial safety, integrate related procedures, continue the exchange of experience and consider the applicability of good practices.

81. The Chair shared information on the United Nations/OECD workshop on Natech¹³ risk management (Potsdam, Germany, 5–7 September 2018), providing a brief overview of its key outcomes.¹⁴ The workshop had been organized by Germany under the auspices of OECD, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and ECE, with the guidance of a Steering Group.

82. The consultant to the secretariat reported on ECE’s role in the workshop, notably the session on transboundary cooperation, and informed the Conference of the workshop’s key recommendations for future work on Natech risk management, which included:

- (a) Development of guidance;
- (b) Creation of an online database for good practices; and
- (c) Development of criteria for hazard mapping, including across borders.

83. The representative of the OECD mentioned the successful conduct of the workshop and indicated that concrete follow-up activities would be determined by the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents. The Head of the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit highlighted the successful collaboration on the workshop and beyond on Natech-related matters, relating to policy and guidance development, training, awareness-raising and advocacy.

84. A representative of UNISDR informed the Conference about the Working Group on Natech of the UNISDR Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG), of which the Convention secretariat is a member. She called for closer collaboration among the experts from the disaster risk reduction, industrial accident and Natech communities. She invited the Parties, the secretariat and other experts to join the STAG in 2019 and contribute their expertise to help build a comprehensive and coherent response to disasters, natural or man-made, in the region and beyond.

85. The Conference took note of the information provided on Natech risk management and agreed to continue enhancing awareness of the Convention’s role in this regard. It welcomed the Convention’s partnerships with other international organizations, in particular with UNISDR, the United Nations Environment/OCHA Joint Unit and OECD in this area.

XV. Outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships

86. A representative of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine informed the Conference of the progress made by Ukraine since the high-level awareness-raising mission organized under the Assistance Programme (Kyiv, 18–19 April 2018). In particular, he highlighted the designation of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine as the main body responsible for the preparation of the country’s accession to the Convention and Ukraine’s intention to sign the Common Declaration of Intent towards improved hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta. The Conference welcomed the progress towards Ukraine’s accession to the Convention and expressed its hope to welcome Ukraine as a Party at its next meeting.

87. The Secretary reported on outreach, awareness-raising and strategic partnerships during this biennium. She highlighted ongoing inter-agency coordination with key partners, among others, through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial Accidents, and enhanced cooperation with UNISDR, including by contributing to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019. The former Chair highlighted cooperation with the

¹³ Natural-hazard-triggered technological accidents.

¹⁴ Available from: <https://natech-workshop.de>.

governing bodies of other ECE multilateral environmental agreements, and her contributions as a member of the UNISDR Expert Group on the Global Risk Assessment Framework and to the UNISDR European Platform for Disaster Risk Assessment (Rome, 22–23 November 2018).

88. The Conference took note of the information provided and encouraged the maintenance and continued development of strategic partnerships with existing and new partners. It welcomed the development of the Words into Action Guidelines on man-made/technological hazards,¹⁵ launched in the margins of this meeting of the Conference, as a remarkable inter-agency coordination effort.

XVI. Date and venue of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

89. The Conference of the Parties expressed its appreciation to Germany for offering to host its next meeting in Bonn in 2020 and entrusted the Bureau and the secretariat to further discuss with Germany the arrangements.

XVII. Other business

90. No delegation had informed the secretariat that it wished to propose points under this item.

XVIII. Review of decisions

91. The Conference of the Parties agreed on the main decisions taken at the meeting. It entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chairs, with finalizing the report of its tenth meeting.

XIX. Final statements and closing of the meeting

92. The secretariat thanked the outgoing and incoming Chairs for their leadership and excellent conduct of the meeting.

93. The Chair thanked the delegates for their active participation and the secretariat for its meeting preparation and support, before closing the tenth meeting of the Conference.

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/54012>.